

Message Text

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17

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AF-06 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07 AID-05 OES-05

DHA-02 HEW-06 /140 W

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R 121630Z MAR 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6277

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA CITY

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS USUN 0970

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, ECOSOC, SWEL, GT

SUBJ: 60TH ECOSOC - GUATEMALA

1. SYG WALDHEIM HAS PROPOSED THAT AN ADDITIONAL ITEM ENTITLED "REVIEW OF THE SITUATION IN GUATEMALA IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE EARTHQUAKE OF 4 FEBRUARY 1976" BE INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA OF THE 60TH SESSION OF THE ECOSOC. THE SYG HAS ISSUED A "SUPPORTING STATEMENT" BY WAY OF JUSTIFYING THE PROPOSED NEW ITEM. THAT STATEMENT IS QUOTED BELOW.

2. USUN ASSUMES THAT THIS ADDITION TO THE 60TH ECOSOC AGENDA WILL BE TAKEN UP AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL AT THE BEGINNING OF THE APRIL-MAY SESSION.

3. BEGIN TEXT:

QUOTE:

ANNEX

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SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. THE EARTHQUAKE WHICH OCCURRED IN GUATEMALA IN THE EARLY HOURS OF 4 FEBRUARY 1976, AND WHICH WAS FOLLOWED BY CONTINUING TREMORS AND ANOTHER SEVERE SHOCK ON 6 FEBRUARY, TOOK A TRAGIC TOLL OF LIFE AND WROUGHT HAVOC TO THAT COUNTRY'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMY. MORE THAN 22,000 PERSONS DIED, OVER 74,000 WERE INJURED AND APPROXIMATELY 1 MILLION WERE LEFT HOMELESS. ABOUT 250,000 HOMES AND BUILDING WERE DESTROYED OR RENDERED USELESS, AND ROADS, RAILROADS, BRIDGES, COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC SERVICES SUFFERED MASSIVE DAMAGE OVER A WIDESPREAD GEOGRAPHICAL AREA.

2. INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY RELIEF WAS IMMEDIATELY MOBILIZED BY THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR, AND AID WAS RAPIDLY FURNISHED FROM WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM BY UNDRO, UNDP, FAO/WFP, UNICEF AND WHO, AND FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY BY MANY DONOR GOVERNMENTS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. WITHIN A SHORT TIME THE IMMEDIATE AND CONTINUING NEEDS OF THE STRICKEN POPULATION IN THE FORM OF MEDICAL CARE, FOOD, WATER AND SHELTER WERE BEING ADEQUATELY MET. WITHIN A FEW WEEKS, THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF GUATEMALA AND THE INTERNATIONAL DONOR COMMUNITY BEGAN TO TURN THEIR ATTENTION TO THE ARDUOUS TASKS OF REHABILITATION AND RE-CONSTRUCTION.

3. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL THEREFORE FEELS DUTY-BOUND TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL THE CONTINUING NEED OF GUATEMALA FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE IN ITS RECOVERY FROM THIS ENORMOUS DISASTER. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WILL SUBMIT A DETAILED REPORT ON THE SITUATION TO FACILITATE THE COUNCIL'S DELIBERATIONS UNDER THIS ITEM.

END TEXT.
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